SNPLMA Project #: _____ **(To be assigned by SNPLMA Administration)**

Appendix I-2
TAHOE PROJECT PROPOSAL

Project Name: Tahoe Decision Support System **EIP #: 10164**

Lead Agency: US Geological Survey
Contact: Liz Schwerer Duffie
Phone Number: 650-329-5662
Email Address: eduffie@usgs.gov

Threshold: All
Threshold Standard:

Total Project Cost: $500,000 per year
LTFAC/TWG Recommended Funding: $250,000

Project Description:
One of the objectives of the USGS Geographic Analysis and Monitoring (GAM) Program is to provide decision-makers with tools to evaluate complex scientific information regarding the ecosystem and economic impacts of management activities and regulations. This program integrates community-based values and science into usable land use decision-making tools, helping managers evaluate possible solutions by evaluating their plausible outcomes. At Lake Tahoe, this program will provide a GIS-based land planning tool considering socioeconomic and environmental impacts of agency-identified controls aimed at attaining environmental standards. The tool will use relevant existing economic and environmental research and will commission further economic research to evaluate scenarios of possible future regulatory, development, environmental and economic choices and outcomes.

Describe the purpose and need for the project:
This study will build on the Tahoe Constrained Optimization Model (TCOM) and on the Adaptive Management Framework. TCOM is a quantitative computer tool combining economic and scientific research tailored to the Upper Truckee Watershed to evaluate the property value and sediment implications of development regulations on Lake Tahoe. It serves as the prototype for the USGS Decision Support System, which will incorporate more research and more regulatory and management decisions, but more importantly, will be more closely tied to the needs of the P7 planning effort. As Basin agencies develop their regional plans for attaining environmental goals over the next 20 years, they need ways of assessing and trading off the complex considerations and scientific insights bearing on their choices. The Tahoe Decision Support System aims to serve as a bridge between some of the many relevant efforts in the Basin—the stakeholder analyses and identification of critical controls that the agencies have undertaken, the Adaptive Management Framework effort, and appropriate scientific modeling efforts.

Describe the goals and objective of the project (For Science & Research Projects describe Key Management Questions being addressed):
Decision Support Systems are among the critical tools in adaptive management. This project will build on relationships and insights developed in the Adaptive Management Framework effort and will shed light on several of the associated KMQs, such as parts of 4.2 ("What role should research play in adaptive management?") and 4.4 ("What role should modeling play in adaptive management?").

SNPLMA Project #: _____ **(To be assigned by SNPLMA Administration)**

Describe the anticipated project accomplishments:
The product of the TDSS will be a computer tool analyzing what-if scenarios describing different management and regulatory choices and environmental and economic outcomes.

Describe the "readiness" of this project to move forward (Environmental documentation, etc.)
The Lake Tahoe Basin will need to be nominated for funding as a Decision Support System Study for fiscal year 2005.

Describe partnerships for this project. (Include documentation)
TDSS is being developed in partnership with TRPA.

For Science & Research Projects describe how this project will guide future management activities:
The tool will be designed for use by Basin agencies as they develop their next set of 20-year plans.

Include an 8 ½ X 11 map depicting the project, or research/study area.

SNPLMA Project #: _____ **(To be assigned by SNPLMA Administration)**